

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN CUCCIAS

• Mr. WICKER. Madam President, today I honor a visionary leader whose years at the helm of Ingalls Shipbuilding have left a profound impact on the State of Mississippi and on the national security posture of the United States. I have had the pleasure of associating with Mr. Brian Cuccias both personally and professionally over many years.

As president of Ingalls Shipbuilding, Mr. Cuccias led the largest manufacturing employer in Mississippi. Located near Brian's hometown of Biloxi, the Pascagoula shipyard sits on 800 acres of land along the Pascagoula River. With 11,500 employees, Ingalls is the largest supplier of U.S. Navy surface combatants and has built nearly 70 percent of the current fleet of Navy warships.

Mr. Cuccias began his career at Ingalls in 1979, when he joined Litton Data Systems, which was then a major division of Litton Industries, then owner of what is today Ingalls Shipyard. He served as a financial analyst for several Navy programs, including amphibious assault ships and *Spruance* and *Kidd*-class destroyers. Since then, he has held a number of positions of increasing responsibility, including assistant to the group vice president of Avondale Industries; sector vice president for material for Northrop Grumman Ship Systems; program manager and vice president for Northrop Grumman's DDG 1000 program; and vice president for surface combatants for Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding.

Mr. Cuccias left his mark on both the shipbuilding industry and Navy surface combatant programs. Universally recognized for his superb leadership, business acumen, and commitment to maritime security, his 2014 appointment as president of Ingalls Shipbuilding came as no surprise to those of us who knew him. During his tenure, Ingalls has continued to set the standard for shipbuilding excellence, delivering five national security cutters to the Coast Guard, along with two *America*-class amphibious assault ships and two *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport docks to the Navy. Additionally, Mr. Cuccias oversaw the reactivation of the *Arleigh Burke*-class production line, delivering four guided missile destroyers to the Navy after a 5-year hiatus. As he departs, he leaves the shipyard in perhaps its strongest position ever, with 13 ships in various stages of production.

Mr. Cuccias has left an indelible impact on the Ingalls workforce. He spearheaded numerous investments in the health and safety of shipyard employees and their families. In 2015, Ingalls dedicated a Family Health Center in Gautier, MS a full-service health care facility for employees, dependents, and retirees covered by the shipyard's health care plans. As part of a \$600 million 4-year upgrade to build the Shipyard of the Future, he supervised the installation of covered, environ-

mentally controlled facilities to protect workers from the elements—again prioritizing the health of the Ingalls workforce.

Always active in his community, Mr. Cuccias served on the executive committee and board of directors for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Business Council, as well as on the boards of directors for the Mississippi Economic Council, the Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development, the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation, and the Salvation Army of Mobile, AL. In 2018, he was honored as one of the Top CEOs in Mississippi by the Mississippi Business Journal.

I want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to Brian Cuccias for his outstanding leadership in Mississippi and for his unwavering support for the missions of the U.S. Navy. As he departs Ingalls for retirement, I wish him and his family "fair winds and following seas." •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON APRIL 28, 2021—PM 8

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Madam Speaker. Madam Vice President. No President has ever said those words from this podium, and it's about time. The First Lady. The Second Gentleman. Mr. Chief Justice. Members of the United States Congress and the Cabinet. My fellow Americans.

While the setting tonight is familiar, this gathering is very different—a reminder of the extraordinary times we are in.

Throughout our history, Presidents have come to this chamber to speak to the Congress, to the Nation, and to the world.

To declare war. To celebrate peace. To announce new plans and possibilities.

Tonight, I come to talk about crisis—and opportunity. About rebuilding our Nation—and revitalizing our democracy. And winning the future. For America.

As I stand here tonight—just one day shy of the 100th day of my Administration. 100 days since I took the oath of office—lifted my hand off our family Bible—and inherited a nation in crisis. The worst pandemic in a century. The worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The worst attack on our democracy since the Civil War.

Now—after just 100 days I can report to the Nation: AMERICA IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN.

Turning peril into possibility. Crisis into opportunity. Setback into strength. Life can knock us down. But in America—we never stay down. In America—we always get up.

And today—that's what we're doing: America is rising anew.

Choosing hope over fear. Truth over lies. Light over darkness.

After 100 days of rescue and renewal, America is ready for takeoff.

We are working again. Dreaming again. Discovering again. Leading the world again.

We have shown each other—and the world: There is no quit in America.

100 days ago, America's house was on fire. We had to act.

And thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader SCHUMER—

And with the overwhelming support of the American people—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans—we did act.

Together—we passed the American Rescue Plan. One of the most consequential rescue packages in American history.

We're already seeing the results.

After I promised 100 million COVID-19 vaccine shots in 100 days—we will have provided over 220 million COVID shots in 100 days. We're marshalling every Federal resource. We've gotten the vaccine to nearly 40,000 pharmacies and over 700 community health centers.

We're setting up community vaccination sites and are deploying mobile units into hard-to-reach areas.

Today, 90% of Americans now live within 5 miles of a vaccination site.

Everyone—over the age of 16—everyone—is now eligible and can get vaccinated right away.

So, get vaccinated now.

When I was sworn in, less than 1% of seniors were fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

100 days later, nearly 70% of seniors are fully protected.

Senior deaths from COVID-19 are down 80% since January. Down 80%. And, more than half of all adults in America have gotten at least one shot.

At a mass vaccination center in Glendale, Arizona, I asked a nurse what it's like. She looked and said every shot feels like a dose of hope.

A dose of hope for the educator in Florida who has a child who suffers from an auto-immune disease. She